

# Future jurors to get books

## New library plan keeps them stocked with texts

By Gene Schabath  
The Detroit News

By the end of the second day of jury duty this week, Dave Bauman had read most of the magazines in the Macomb County jury room, including a dog-eared Ladies Home Journal and a 2002 Reader's Digest.

Welcome to the boredom phase of jury duty.

Most of the time prospective jurors sit, read, play cards, watch television and wait to be selected to sit on a jury. Then they read some more.

"By the second day, I pretty much read all of the magazines," said Bauman, 61, of Shelby Township. "I'm here for a week — Tuesday through Friday — waiting for my number to be called. They called me yesterday but I wasn't selected."

So, it was back to the jury room, chatting with new acquaintances and browsing through the worn magazines.

But the offerings soon will get better.

Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh and Mount Clemens Library Director Donald Worrell have created a new program that will allow jurors to order free books from any Macomb County Library so they can peruse literary classics — or the latest best-sellers — while on jury duty.

"That's a pretty neat idea ... an outstanding idea," said Bauman, an audio visual technician.

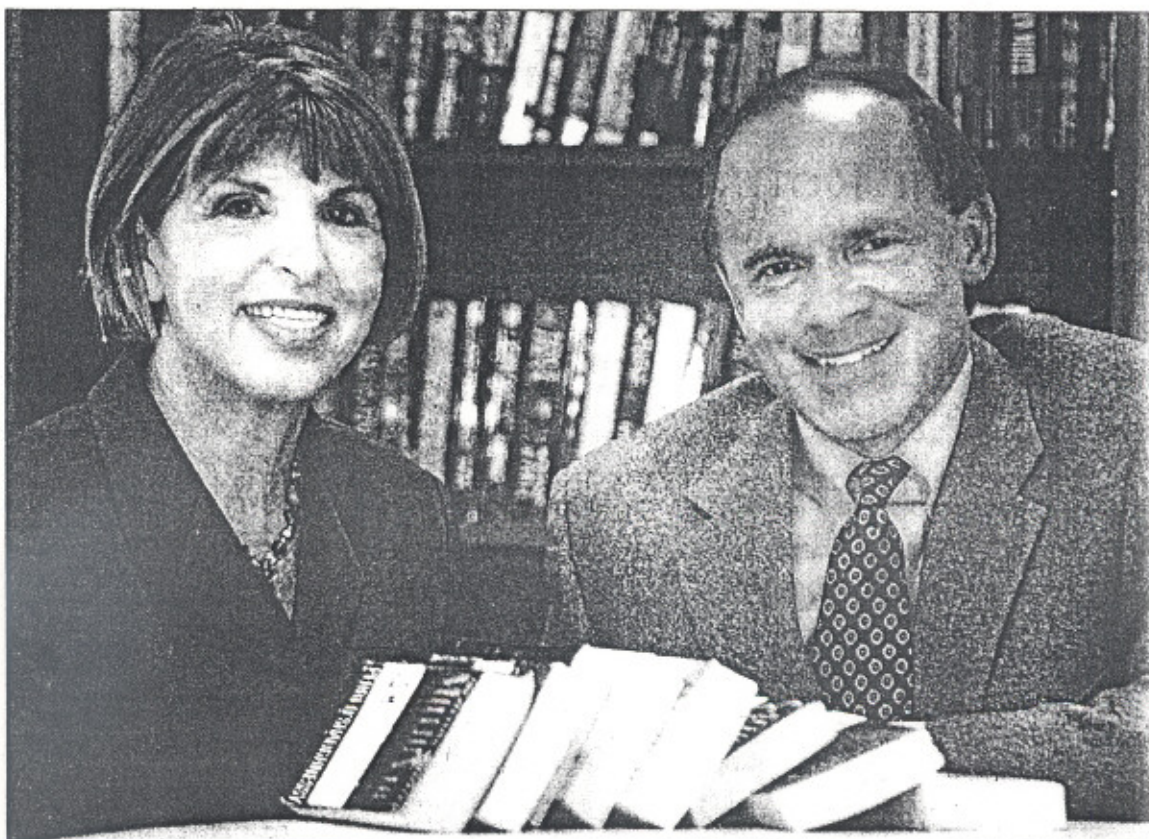
The genesis for the juror-library book program started a few weeks ago when Macomb County Clerk Todd Schmitz was musing over the \$800-a-year magazine subscription bill for the jurors' room.

"Wouldn't it be great if they had books?" Schmitz asked his boss, Sabaugh.

Sabaugh ran into Mount Clemens Library Director Don Worrell in the Macomb County Courthouse a few days later and Sabaugh broached the subject of books in the jury room.

"We said, wouldn't it be great to bring in books they really want to read?" Sabaugh said. "So, he (Worrell) brought in 100 (paperback) books."

That led to the plan that



Photos by Todd McInturf / The Detroit News

The new program implemented by Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh and Mount Clemens Library Director Donald Worrell will allow jurors to order books from any Macomb County library so they can use idle time to read.



Prospective jurors can order a classic or best-seller before they show up for jury duty, drawing from a list of 1,000 texts. When they show up for jury duty, the books will be there.

allows jurors to order their favorite book before they show up for jury duty, Sabaugh said. They can either order the books online at the county clerk's Web site or in person at the county clerk's office on the first floor of the courthouse, 40 N. Main in downtown Mount Clemens.

Jurors are told about the book program when the county sends them notification of jury duty.

And when they show up for jury duty, the book is there, Worrell said.

Prospective jurors will have a catalog of thousands of books to choose from, Worrell said.

"They have access to any book that is in the suburban library cooperative book base,"

### How it works

■ When jurors receive notice to report to jury duty, they also are given a letter about the library book program.

■ Prospective jurors then can access the county clerk's Web site at [macombcountymt.com/clerkoffice/BookRequest.asp](http://macombcountymt.com/clerkoffice/BookRequest.asp) that explains the program and also gives a catalogue of all available books.

Source: Macomb County Clerk's Office

Worrell said.

"All library resources that may currently be checked out will be available to jurors, including our talking books — the ones

■ Jurors can order the book online or he county clerk's office on the first floor of the Macomb County Courthouse, 40 N. Main in downtown Mount Clemens, and place the order in person.

■ When the juror reports for jury duty, the library book, tapes or CD, will be waiting for them.

on tape — and the music audio collection."

Jury selection officials say the book-borrowing program will be a welcome relief for jurors.

"It will keep them occupied," said Denise Greiner, acting jury clerk. "We have 130 jurors, and sometimes it is not fun. We try to make it as comfortable as possible."

"But this is boring," Greiner said. "We have television sets and padded chairs and card tables, but there is only so much TV you can watch waiting to go to the jury pool."

Sabaugh said the juror book program is the latest effort to make jury duty as painless as possible.

Several months ago, Sabaugh worked out a deal that allows jurors to ride a Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation bus free to the county courthouse for jury duty. Prospective jurors are sent a letter that gives them the bus routes and a phone number to call to get free tickets.

For those living north of M-59, the Dial-A-Ride system is used.

"Not many use it, but those who do are happy with it," Greiner said. "Most people have cars."

Sabaugh said the free bus rides are aimed at people who don't have automobiles.

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